Maps and Aerial Photographs

Description

Maps and aerial photographs are visual aids that help people understand the complexities of contamination and operable units at ***Public Meetings*** and ***Public Availabilities/Poster Sessions***. It is easier to communicate complex issues effectively with the benefit of these visual aids.

See Public Meetings, Tab 32; Public Availabilities/Poster Sessions, Tab 30

Required Activity?

No.

Making it Work

When to Use

Maps and aerial photographs can be used to:

- Help explain where a response action or operable unit will be occurring relative to the site;
- Indicate where residences, schools, playgrounds, and hospitals are located;
- Show how many citizens may be at risk;
- Display current contamination and predict paths of migration;
- Illustrate environmental receptors and natural resource damages;
- Show groundwater and surface water contamination relative to the area's watershed;
- Plan where to conduct interviews or determine whom to include on a ***Mailing List;***
- Help predict community concern about a site before the interviews by locating nearby schools, residences, bodies of water, farmland, etc.;
- Enhance your own understanding of a citizen's relation to the site during interviews;
- Illustrate Section 2 of the ***Community Involvement Plan*** ("Capsule Site Description"); and
- Guide citizens to the areas to visit and the areas to avoid during a site tour.

See Mailing List, Tab 23

See Community Involvement Plans, Tab 7

How to Use

Decide which type of map and scale would be most appropriate for each activity. Consult the site Remedial Project Manager (RPM) or On Scene Coordinator (OSC) for all site information. He or she has the most complete and up-to-date maps and aerial photographs available. If you need more information, consult the ***Internet*** (see below). Other good sources for spatial information include Site Assessment Managers and the Region's Geographic Information System (GIS) office.

See Internet, Tab 10

Tips

- Use the right type and scale of map for the job. For presentations, ensure that the map is large enough to be read by people in the back of the room.
- Label all areas (*e.g.,* operable units, buildings, plume, or debris) that you will be referring to during your presentation. Include clearly labeled off-site reference points.

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- Try to use overlays. For example, the base map could be of the community and the site. When referring to nearby natural resources, you could use an overlay that shows wetlands, watersheds, and sensitive habitats around the site.

Related Tools/Resources in the Toolkit

- Community Interviews, Tab 5
- Community Involvement Plans, Tab 7
- Informal Activities, Tab 20
- Exhibits, Tab 13
- Internet, Tab 10
- Mailing List, Tab 23

Outside Sources of Information

Through the ***Internet***, visit the *Maps on Demand (MOD)* home page (*www.epa.gov/enviro/html/mod/mod.html*); it lists World Wide Web-based mapping applications that generate maps displaying environmental information for the entire United States. There are three different applications:

- The *SiteInfo* application creates informative reports and map displays of EPA management concerns, regulated sources, human health, and ecosystem information for areas surrounding any given location in the entire United States. *SiteInfo* was developed in EPA Region 10. All you need to do is provide a latitude/longitude coordinate within the 48 contiguous United States (*www.epa.gov/r10earth/r10gis/aboutsite.html*).
- The *BasinInfo* application allows users to map watersheds and select criteria (*e.g.*, program system, demographic information) to be displayed on the map. Information about EPA-regulated facilities within this hydrogeologic unit will be provided in a text report. *BasinInfo* also was developed in EPA Region 10 (*www.epa.gov/r10earth/r10gis/basininfo.html*).
- The *Facility Density Mapper* application allows users to map and assess the concentration of EPA-regulated facilities in a given area. Facilities are identified by a valid Facility Indexing System (FINDS) identification number assigned by EPA. This tool is valuable to users interested in targeting areas of high facility concentration (*www.epa.gov/envirofw/html/mod/fdm/index.html*).

See LandView, Tab 10

Another ***Internet*** resource, ***LandView III***, was developed by EPA and the U.S. Census Bureau. Maps generated using this program display EPA-regulated sites, demographic and economic information from the 1990 census, and key geographic features of the United States. ***LandView III*** is able to create a map showing major/minor roads along with census tract boundaries for every county or county equivalent in the United States. In addition to the mapping function, the program will locate a given street on a map, thus showing the appropriate census tract number. This product effectively replaces the paper census tract maps that are plotted on demand. Each Region should have at least one copy of ***LandView III***. User training is available through CIOC. Additionally, the Census Bureau has a demo version of this product that can be downloaded from URL: *www.census.gov/ftp/pub/geo/www/tiger.*

If you need ***LandView*** data for only a single county or county equivalent, RTK Net, a non-profit group Web site, provides the public with the capability of downloading the ***LandView III*** software and files at URL: *www.rtk.net/www/rtknet/webpagedatabas3.html#MAPPING.*